

COMMUNICATION.

Secession.—BY J. B. JOHNSON.

If we apprehended the true relation of the two parties in Virginia, we are not mistaken in the assertion that they were divided into that of secession on one hand, and of Union on the other. We heard the various speeches of the candidates of both sides to the question, and not one, that we heard, ever announced to the people, that he was in favor of "unconditional unionism."—Therefore, there was no secession party in the field for conventional honor, and the only difference which we could perceive between the two parties, may be thus stated. The secessionists had no confidence in the people of the North, and declared that Virginia would never be able to adjust the difficulties which beset her interest, in a manner commensurate with her safety and honor, while she remained a part of the Union. The Unionists thought otherwise, and made issue with the secessionists by contending that there was a conservative element in the North which might be brought to listen to the appeal of compromise, and that, if, after exhausting all honorable means to adjust the unfortunate sectional difference, the North failed to heed their propositions, for peace, they would secede.

This was the understanding between the frank secessionist and the honest Unionist; and with this agreement the respective candidates went into the contest for seats in the proposed convention. The result of election was the choice of one hundred and seventeen Union men, and thirty-four secessionists. The consequence was, that the secessionists were in an important minority in the Convention, and every proposition which they made, in that body looking towards secession, was promptly and signally voted down, upon more than one occasion. Hence, they did not possess even the balance of power.

Thus the Unionists had the whole control of the machinery of the Convention; and they failed in every effort which they made to conciliate the fanatics of the North. Finally, as the last resort, they appointed a committee of three to repair to the President of the non-seceded States, and ask him if he really did mean what he said. Mr. Lincoln's reply was, "of course I do. Did you read my inaugural?" If you do not understand it, I will explain it to you? Certainly I mean to enforce the laws and collect the revenues, and retake forts, &c." Sung in the Convention, such a cold-blooded refusal, the committee of three, returned indignantly to the Convention, and with feelings of the deepest chagrin, told its members that Mr. Lincoln's reply to their interrogatories, left them with the impression of one of two courses, viz: submission, or secession. The Convention being composed, with the exception of a few individuals, of reliable and honest men, concluded that it had, in the fullest acceptance, exhausted all honorable means in order to settle the pending sectional dispute, and under the force of inexorable circumstances, relieved the pledge to the people by causing Virginia to recall those powers and rights which she delegated to the Federal Government in the month of June 1788.

The object which we have in indulging in the above retrospection is to prove—that the secessionists were not themselves able to pass the ordinance of secession, and 2nd. To reconcile the Union men to their own work. If they do not sustain their act in the coming election they may be charged with the grossest inconsistency; for we take it, that the Union men were actuated by the highest honor, in their patriotic endeavors to save intact the fragments of a once great and splendid Nation. If they should, against an ordinance based upon their own promises and made effective by their own votes, then it might be concluded, that they did not know what they were saying when they promised to secede the State after they had exhausted all honorable means. Such is the predicament in which those Union men, who fail to support the ordinance, will place themselves. The acts in the Convention, as matters have terminated, should be to them, a source of great pleasure; for they did truly exhaust every expedient to maintain peace, and no escape was left them save that of self-secession. If there is justice in their own promises, and impartiality on earth, they will receive the approbation of an unprejudiced world. They saved the Union, and made them rush to the proud side of their lofty old mother State, and array themselves, like impregnable mail, to guard her generous bosom from the polluting touch of a vindictive foe. When her sons submerge with the light of their valor, and their cannons thunder the force of their might, let not the timid distract the council of the brave, or give hope to the enemy by the gloomy pictures of a dark future; but let hope and fidelity be written upon every brow, and dire will be the fate of those who place themselves in the lion path of Virginia's crushing tread. Victory to the brave, and death to the foe.

Alexandria, May, 1861.

DIED.

Yesterday at the residence of James C. Nevett, Mrs. CATHARINE HALL, of Washington. — Her funeral will take place to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock. [Washington Star copy.]

COMMERCIAL.

Alexandria Fish Market, May 15.

The supply of fish continues good, and prices have declined. We quote Shad at \$5.00 per hundred, and Herring at \$4.00 per thousand.

151.	ALMANAC.				1861.
FIFTH MONTH.	SUN	SUN			
MAY.	days.	sets.	MOON'S PHASES.		
16 Thursday	4 46	7 7	D. N. M.		
17 Friday	4 45	7 7	First, 17 10 55 m.		
18 Saturday	4 44	7 8	Full, 24 0 58 m.		
19 Sunday	4 44	7 9	Last, 31 5 17 m.		
20 Monday	4 43	7 10	New, 8 8 30 m.		
21 Tuesday	4 42	7 11	HIGH WATER.		
22 Wednesday	4 41	7 12	Mid 16 14 23 m.		